MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH   JULY 29, 2014

Assistance and Services for Victims:

While victims rarely appear at our board meetings to influence our policies, they are important stakeholders in the criminal justice system to whom we have a duty to protect.

Victims of crime suffer financial, physical and mental hardships; the effects of the crime can last a lifetime. Government Code sections 13950-13966 allows victims of certain crimes to receive financial assistance for losses under the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP). The District Attorney's Office administers the Victim-Witness Assistance Program for our county.

Penal Code Section 13835.5 authorizes certain mandatory and optional services to be provided to eligible victims of crime. Mandatory services include crisis intervention; counseling resource and referral; assistance in filing a California Victim Compensation claim; assistance in getting the victim's property returned, court escort, and support.

Optional services include creditor intervention, child care assistance, funeral arrangement assistance, witness protection assistance, transportation assistance and temporary restraining order information.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors request the District Attorney to provide a report to the Board regarding:

1. The resources available to victims under the California Victim Compensation Program and to the Victim-Witness Assistance Program administered locally by the District Attorney's Office;

2. Identify gaps in the program, including assistance to victims for which resources are unavailable or unallowable under the state's program;

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              MOLINA   _____

              RIDLEY-THOMAS_____

              YAROSLAVSKY   _____

              ANTONOVICH   _____

              KNABE   _____

3. Provide recommendations on ways services and assistance to victims that can be enhanced at the local level; and

4. The above report should be provided simultaneously with the District Attorney's report due in September/October on the county's comprehensive diversion program.

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MDA:apg